

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

1 Claim 21 (new): A system for controlling a
2 telecommunications network comprising:

3 a first switch fabric, situated within the
4 telecommunications network, for controlling connections in
5 the telecommunications network; the first switch fabric
6 having:

7 first and second ports; and
8 third and fourth ports each connected to either a
9 second switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications
10 network, or a corresponding one of a plurality of peripheral
11 apparatus;

12 a bridging circuit contained within the
13 telecommunications network and connected between the first
14 and second ports; and

15 a computer apparatus arranged to communicate with the
16 first port for controlling a first connection between the
17 bridging circuit and a first one of the peripheral apparatus
18 and to communicate with the second port for controlling a
19 second connection between the bridging circuit and a second
20 one of the peripheral apparatus such that, as a result of
21 communication between the computer apparatus and first
22 switch fabric, the first and second connections, are

23 established and bridged by and within the telecommunications
24 network.

1 Claim 22 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein:
2 each of the first, second, third and fourth ports has a
3 control section and a voice data section;
4 the control section of the first and second ports
5 communicates, via first and second links, respectively, with
6 the computer apparatus; and
7 the bridging circuit is connected between the voice
8 data sections of the first and second ports.

1 Claim 23 (new): The system recited in claim 22 wherein:
2 the computer apparatus is arranged to send a first
3 control command to the first port, via the first control
4 link, for controlling the first connection between the
5 bridging circuit and the first peripheral apparatus; and
6 the computer apparatus is arranged to send a second
7 control command to the second port, via the second control
8 link, for controlling the second connection between the
9 bridging circuit and the second peripheral apparatus.

1 Claim 24 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 first and second ports support multiple bridging circuits;
3 and the system comprises a plurality of bridging circuits
4 with at least two of the bridging circuits being combined in
5 a common trunk.

1 Claim 25 (new): The system recited in claim 22 wherein the
2 first and second control links are combined in a control
3 network.

1 Claim 26 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 first switch fabric comprises a single telecommunications
3 switch.

1 Claim 27 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 first switch fabric comprises first and second
3 telecommunications switches with the first switch having the
4 first and third ports, and the second switch having the
5 second and fourth ports.

1 Claim 28 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 computer apparatus is arranged to receive control signals
3 from the first switch fabric.

1 Claim 29 (new): The system recited in claim 28 wherein the
2 computer apparatus is arranged to pass control signals from
3 the first and second ports to the second and first ports,
4 respectively.

1 Claim 30 (new): The system recited in claim 28 wherein the
2 computer apparatus is arranged to perform a corresponding
3 service upon receipt of one of the control signals from the
4 first switch fabric.

1 Claim 31 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 computer apparatus comprises a server.

1 Claim 32 (new): The system recited in claim 31 wherein:
2 the computer apparatus further comprises a signalling
3 gateway arranged to communicate with the server; and

4 the signalling gateway comprises first and second
5 communication ports for communicating with the control
6 section of the first and second ports, respectively, of the
7 first switch fabric.

1 Claim 33 (new): The system recited in claim 32 wherein the
2 server communicates, through a computer network, with a user
3 terminal.

1 Claim 34 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 control commands comprise commands related to establishing
3 or breaking a telecommunications connection.

1 Claim 35 (new): The system recited in claim 21 wherein the
2 computer apparatus is arranged to generate a call detail
3 record upon establishing a connection via the first or
4 second ports to the third port.

1 Claim 36 (new): A method for use in a system for controlling
2 a telecommunications network, wherein the system comprises a
3 first switch fabric, situated within the telecommunications
4 network, for controlling connections in the
5 telecommunications network; the first switch fabric having
6 first and second ports; and third and fourth ports each
7 connected to either a second switch fabric, situated within
8 the telecommunications network, or a corresponding one of a
9 plurality of peripheral apparatus; a bridging circuit,
10 contained within the telecommunications network, connected
11 between the first and second ports; and a computer apparatus
12 arranged to communicate with the first and second ports; the
13 method comprising the steps, performed by the computer
14 apparatus, of:

15 controlling a first connection between the bridging
16 circuit and a first one of the peripheral apparatus;
17 controlling a second connection between the bridging
18 circuit and a second one of the peripheral apparatus; and
19 instructing the bridging circuit to bridge the first
20 and second connections;
21 such that, as a result of communication between the
22 computer apparatus and first switch fabric, the first and
23 second connections, are established and bridged by and
24 within the telecommunications network.

1 Claim 37 (new): The method recited in claim 36 further
2 comprising the steps, performed by the computer apparatus,
3 of:

4 controlling the first connection by sending a first
5 control command to the first port; and
6 controlling the second connection by sending a second
7 control command to the second port.

1 Claim 38 (new): The method recited in claim 37 further
2 comprising the step of bridging the first and second
3 connections through use of corresponding circuits in the
4 bridging circuit.

1 Claim 39 (new): The method recited in claim 36 further
2 comprising the step of sending a control command from the
3 computer apparatus to the first switch fabric upon receipt
4 of a user command from a user, the computer apparatus
5 comprising a server communicating with the first switch
6 fabric and the server communicating, via a computer network,
7 with a user terminal through which the user issues the user
8 command.

1 Claim 40 (new): The method recited in claim 39 further
2 comprising the steps of:
3 receiving a call by the first switch fabric at the
4 third port;
5 sending a control command from the first switch
6 fabric to the server; and
7 communicating a response from the server to the user
8 terminal upon receipt of the command from the first switch
9 fabric.